Water problems of backward districts

1062. SHRI S.S. CHANDRAN: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are aware of the poor living conditions of agriculturists from backward districts of our country who are fully depending upon the rain water;

(b) whether Government are also aware of their sufferings during monsoon failure;

(c) if so, whether there is any proposal under the consideration of Government to provide alternative relief measures for those affected agriculturists; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir.

(c) and (d) In the event of monsoon failure, relief is provided to the affected areas under National Calamity Contingency Fund. For the current year's drought, in response to the requests of the State Governments, 19.25 lakh MTs of food-grains have been allocated free of cost to provide employment to the rural poor to mitigate their suffering. Further, in response to the memorandum received from drought hit States seeking assistance from National Calamity Contingency Fund (NCCF), the High Level Committee (HLC) has approved an assistance of Rs. 1999.14 crores, subject to adjustment of available balances in the Calamity Relief Fund (CRF) of respective States.

KVK at Kangra

1063. SHRI ANIL SHARMA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is any proposal to sanction Krishi Vigyan Kendra at Kangra in Himachal Pradesh;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what action Government have taken/propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) to (c) The Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) has already sanctioned a Krishi Vigyan Kangra (KVK) at Kangra in Himachal Pradesh under the administrative control of Ch. Sarwan Kumar Himachal Pradesh Krishi Vishvavidyalaya, Palampur during 1999.